

# DIRECT ACTION

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLEMENT FREE

## FIGHT TO WIN

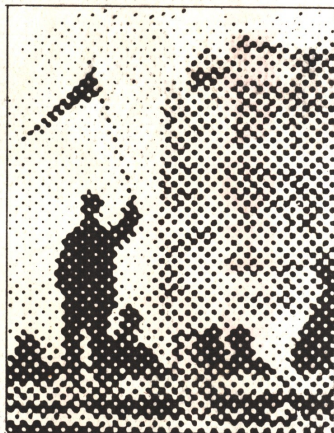
The publication of this Direct Action Supplement should be seen, perhaps, as a statement of intent. It reflects the ongoing debate within the Direct Action Movement (DAM) about the direction we intend to move in, with few illusions, and more importantly the direction of the (dis?)organised working class in the face of a continuous onslaught by the Tory Government.

As the Trade Unions openly cave-in to, or comply with, the bosses; as they become more and more divorced from the day to day reality of those they are meant to represent i.e. working-class people, we see Anarcho-syndicalist organisation as more relevant than ever.

We realise that in recent times especially, to most workers Anarcho-syndicalism is unfamiliar, though not inherently alien. This we intend to rectify.

We are open about our intentions and our politics. We have no 'hidden agenda'. The Networks that are mentioned elsewhere in this issue *have* been set up by DAM members who work in those industries, though the membership of them is not

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exclusively composed of DAM. *That is neither our wish or a condition of being part of a network.*

At the moment these networks are small and so initially act as propaganda group and as a focus point for militants. However, interest in them is increasing and we hope to see more networks being set-up, and existing ones getting bigger, in the not-too-distant future. In the long-term, the intention is to federate them, on

a national level, into a Union that is both willing and capable of fighting for our class.

The creation of such a Union is the reason for the DAM's existence. We don't see the DAM as end in *itself*. A unique position amongst political organisations in Britain.

There is nothing that the DAM can do that the Union won't be able to. There is plenty of things that the Union will be capable of that the DAM isn't. This is because the DAM can only operate within the political field, thereby divorced from the workplace.

What then of DAM? At its National Conference held recently, there was a lengthy debate on this point. In fact it centred more so on what the DAM's role should be *now* rather than at the point of the networks federating.

We realise that there is some confusion about the relationship between the DAM and the Networks, as there was when the Despatch industry Workers Union (DIWU) existed. Some people thought that DIWU was a DAM 'front'; in fact although set-up by two DAM members (both Despatch riders) DIWU at its peak never had more than a

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handful of people who were in the DAM, a small minority.

Of course DAM members will attempt to create new Networks and act as militants within them - they are ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTS after all! So to clarify: the networks that exist now are Anarcho-syndicalist in politics and structure but *independent* in decision making and activity. There is no DAM 'Central Committee' lurking behind them nor will there ever be.

## LEAVING THE 'LEFT' BEHIND

We could fill this paper with articles about the history of Anarcho-syndicalism, from the First International to the Russian Revolution to Spain 1936, where the working-class gained more control than anything seen before or since. Alternatively, we could fill the pages with our vision of a free and equal society without class divisions. Both would make interesting reading and debate, but with whom? While we see a place for such writing we feel that most people are likely to ask us what we should do NOW.

We live in the present, therefore our starting point is 'What is happening and why, and how can we change things? Sterile debates with the middle-class led Marxist 'left' have not much favour with us or many others for that matter. One of these groups had, a while back, on the front page of its paper: 'British workers need a need a Bolshevik Party'. Sure, like we need an ice-pick in the head! Is it any wonder

that they are so derided by working-class people?

While the 'left' - from Trotskyites to those who thought Stalin was a bit of a liberal - has spent years debating what is in effect HISTORY, like religious sects, the bosses and the State have been fucking us over quite nicely, thank you very much. Question: What are we going to do about it? Debate whether Marx had a longer beard than Bakunin (anarchist) or suggest ways to organise and fight back? We know in which direction we intend moving in.

We are not opposed to political debate, and we certainly want a politicised working-class, but any discussion must be relevant and in context with the struggles that are before us today. The 'left' has paralysed itself, with little hope of recovery. We aren't going to waste our time and energy in mourning its demise. Quite the opposite. It wasn't long ago that socialists, communists and anarchists were treated with respect by workers. They were militants but were trusted because they were from WITHIN the same communities, as they could be called then. The 'left' have actually divorced politics from those same people because they are from WITHOUT. We have much lost ground to catch up on.

## THE BUSINESS

We want a workers movement that is confident and has the commitment to fight a class war with the same conviction as the Tory

Party and their allies are doing now. A movement that is open to ALL working-class people, waged or unwaged, where Solidarity is not a mere slogan. One that takes pride in itself and its achievements.

We want nothing but the best for our class, and that doesn't mean 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work'. It means, in the short term, higher wages, shorter hours, better conditions. In fact we want what the middle-classes take for granted. Why shouldn't we have decent homes for all? We bloody built them!

We want all that and more. But it must be at the expense of the bosses not other workers. Surely the last 15 years have shown that sitting back and watching while one section of workers has been attacked (miners, printers, dockers etc.) has got us nowhere and the bosses in the position they are in today.

People will no doubt ask us how the type of Union we are advocating will be any better than the existing ones. The reply will be simple: It's up to you. YOU will be the Union. If you want to fight for higher wages or whatever then the Union will fight. We have nothing but contempt for the TUC bureaucrats who have, and are, selling-out the interests of their members.

From the 'Depressions' of the 20/30's to the 'Recessions' of today the rich have always stayed rich. Funny isn't it? And we've only ever achieved anything by fighting for it - right? It's time the bosses tasted the fear again.